

Women's Health Initiative

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Department of Health and Human Services

Economic, cultural and geographic variables all contribute to the fragmentation of Maine's health care system. Culturally sensitive interventions designed to increase access and coordination, enhance collaboration, and standardize care across the state are critical components of any plan to improve and integrate women's health care in Maine.

Behavioral health issues have long been dealt with separately from physical health, as if mind and body were distinct entities. Stigma associated with mental illness has further consolidated this mind/body split, effectively removing mental health matters from the mainstream of women's health care policy, planning and finance.

Throughout the State of Maine there are many entities providing women's health care services across all levels of the health care continuum, i.e., primary care providers, women's health clinics, tertiary care hospitals and Maternal and Child Health programs. While each entity provides a component of care, they lack integration into a single comprehensive system of health care where access can be made at any point with standardization of referral guidelines and care protocols or programs.



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Program Goals:

- ❑ Sustainable public private partnerships will support coordinated and comprehensive systems of healthcare for Maine women, including the seamless integration of mental health and addiction services in the primary care setting;
- ❑ Women's health will improve across the lifespan through delivery of coordinated and comprehensive services in the primary care setting based upon established guidelines and best practices.

Program Activities:

- ❑ Developing structures and processes to enhance coordination and collaboration among stakeholders in women's health, including mental health and addiction services;
- ❑ Creating administrative structures to coordinate and implement policies to support comprehensive women's health services in the primary care setting;
- ❑ Identifying, piloting and replicating models to provide coordinated and comprehensive women's health care in the primary care setting within community health center demonstration sites throughout Maine;
- ❑ Creating and establishing guidelines based on the pilot experience; and
- ❑ Streamlining existing data, surveillance, and analysis systems related to women's health to monitor and inform program planning and to guide system development and evaluation of project outcomes.

Coordinating Entities:

- ❑ Women's Behavioral Health Project Steering Committee;
- ❑ Women's Behavioral Health Systems Initiative Advisory Group;
- ❑ Interdepartmental Women's Health Committee;
- ❑ Maine CDC's Women's Preventive Health Workgroup;
- ❑ Maine Women's Health Campaign.

Funding Source

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Budget: \$100,000 (FY 07)

Staff Count: 1